AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled)

22.   (New) A method of determining a reference picture for decoding a current field macroblock, comprising:

determining a reference picture for the current field macroblock from a reference picture list composed of reference frames, the determined reference picture being one of a top field and a bottom field of a reference frame;

wherein the determining step determines a field having a same parity as the current macroblock or a different parity from the current macroblock as a reference picture based upon reference picture index information, index information for the reference frame and field parity of the current field macroblock.

23.   (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

encoding/decoding the field macroblock using the determined reference picture.

24.   (New) The method of claim 23, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number, then the determined field has a same parity as the current field macroblock.

25.   (New) The method of claim 23, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number, then the determined field has a field parity different from the current field macroblock.